

In the Specification

Please insert on page 1 between the title of the application and the first paragraph the following new paragraph:

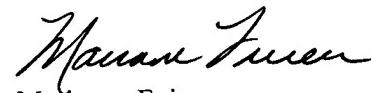
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is filed under the provisions of 35 USC §371 and claims the priority of International Patent Application No. PCT/DE99/02976 filed September 14, 1999, which in turn claims priority of German Patent Application No. 198 42 556.2 filed September 17, 1998.

REMARKS

This claim to priority is being filed before the above-identified application meets all the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §371(b).

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Fuierer
Registration No. 39,983
Attorney for Applicants

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/
TECHNOLOGY LAW
P. O. Box 14329
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Phone: (919) 419-9350
Fax: (919) 419-9354
Attorney File: 4197-103

BEST AVAILABLE COPY